

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the telephonic interview on September 9, 2005 to discuss the Office Action mailed July 11, 2005. As agreed claims 2, 19 and 23 are canceled in this response and claims 1 and 10 are further explained. Examiner agreed to consider such an amendment.

Claims 2, 19 and 23 are requested to be cancelled.

Claims 1, 10 and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Claim 23 has been canceled. Specifically, the terms "inner portion", a "first width", a "second width" and the "outer portion" were objected to. It is submitted that these terms are supported by the drawings and specification.

The phrase "inner portion" of the ring 50 represents a portion of the ring closer to base surface 48 as shown in Figure 11C. The inner portion of ring 50 has a first width. The "outer portion" of the ring is the portion of the ring further away from base surface 48, such that the inner portion of the ring is between base surface 48 and the outer surface of the ring. The second width is the width of the ring at the outer portion. As shown in Figure 11C the first width of the inner portion of the ring is at least as wide as the second width of the outer portion of the ring.

Accordingly it is submitted that claims 1 and 10 comply with the written description of 35 U.S.C. par. 112.

The specification has been amended to identify U.S. Patent No. 6,644,084 as requested by the Examiner.

Claims 1-19 and 23 were rejected based on double patenting over U.S. Patent No. 6,644,084. Claims 2, 19 and 23 were canceled. Independent claims 1 and 19 do not include the limitation "a first shape including a generally rectangular cross-section" as recited in the

claims of the '084 patent. Accordingly it is requested that the double patenting rejection be withdrawn. If the Examiner believes a terminal disclaimer is required, upon request Applicant will submit a terminal disclaimer.

This amendment deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1, and 3-18 are now pending in this application.

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 06-1447. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 06-1447. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 06-1447.

Respectfully submitted,

Date 10/11/05

By 

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Amendments to the Drawings:

Please substitute the attached 8 sheets (Figs. 11) of formal drawings for the informal drawings originally filed with the application. A separate Transmittal of Formal Drawings is submitted.